

Serial No.: 10/033,435
Filed: December 27, 2001
Reply to Office Action of May 27, 2003

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (new): An isolated polypeptide comprising amino acids 1 or 22 to 125 of SEQ ID NO:9.

Claim 36 (new): A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 35 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

Claim 37 (new): The chimeric polypeptide of Claim 36, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope tag or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.

Claim 38 (new): An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203583.

Claim 39 (new): A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 38 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

Claim 40 (new): The chimeric polypeptide of Claim 39, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope tag or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.

Claim 41 (new): An isolated polypeptide having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of amino acids 1 to 125 of SEQ ID NO:9;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of amino acids 22 to 125 of SEQ ID NO:9; or
- ©) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding

sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203583, wherein said isolated polypeptide is capable of inducing proliferation of utricular epithelial cells or mammalian fibroblasts.

Claim 42 (new): A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 41 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

Claim 43 (new): The chimeric polypeptide of Claim 42, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope tag or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.

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Claim 44 (new): An isolated polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that specifically hybridizes in 0.015 M sodium chloride/0.0015 M sodium citrate/0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate at 50 degrees Celsius to:

- (a) the complement of the full-length coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:8; or
- (b) the complement of the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203583, wherein said isolated polypeptide is capable of inducing proliferation of utricular epithelial cells or mammalian fibroblasts.

Claim 45 (new): A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 44 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

Claim 46 (new): The chimeric polypeptide of Claim 45, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope tag or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.